



REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 remain in the application. Of these, the Examiner's "Summary of Action" indicates that claims 1-18 stand rejected, while claims 19 and 20 stand objected to. However, applicants cannot find any rejections of claims 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 14-16 and 18; and applicants cannot find any objections to claims 19 and 20. The Examiner's 5/10/2005 Office Action is therefore believed to be incomplete.

In addition to the amendments mentioned in the following sections of these Remarks/Arguments, applicants note that claims 5, 10 and 15 have been amended to change "KQ dielectrics" to "ceramic dielectrics". Also, claims 6, 11 and 16 have been amended to change their dependencies in light of the amendments to claims 5, 10 and 15. Support for these amendments is found, at least, in paragraph [0021].

The above amendments are not believed to add new matter.

1. Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objects to paragraph [0001] of the specification because the statuses of referenced patent applications need to be updated. These updates have been provided.

The Examiner objects to paragraph [0015] of the specification because he believes the phrase "is shielded 106, 108" is an incomplete recitation. Applicants disagree. The reference numbers 106 and 108 are provided as indicators of what it is that provides the referenced 'shielding'. Applicants' sentence could have alternately been written to say, "As defined herein, a quasi-coax transmission line 100 comprises a conductor 104, the cross-section of which is shielded (e.g., by shields 106, 108) in a non-symmetrical fashion." However, applicants believe their original sentence is also proper.

The Examiner objects to paragraph [0021] because "dielectrics 206, 208, 214" are only shown in FIG. 3, and not in FIGS. 2 & 3; and because he would prefer to see

a reference to "FIGS. 2 & 3" when "substrate 224" is introduced. Applicants have made these changes.

The Examiner objects to paragraphs [0022] and [0024] because he believes phrases such as "deposited 402" should be rewritten as "deposited by step 402". However, applicants believe such changes are unnecessary, and that such changes are not mandated by the MPEP. As a result, applicants have not made these changes.

The Examiner further objects to paragraph [0022] because the reference "dielectric 508" does not appear to be consistent with what is shown in FIG. 6. Applicants agree, and have amended the reference to "dielectric 508" to read "dielectric 600".

The Examiner objects to the disclosure, in general, because some reference numbers referred to in the application are referred to in terms of ranges of reference numbers, and all of the reference numbers in the referenced ranges do not exist. Although applicants' representative has used this convention for over a decade, and the USPTO has not objected to it, applicants' specification has been amended to list all of the reference numbers that were included within the referenced ranges.

The Examiner further objects to the disclosure because, "the following reference labels need description relative to the corresponding drawing figure: figs. 5, 6 (200, 204, 224); Fig. 6 (202, 218, 220); figs. 8, 9 (218, 224); fig. 9 (200, 202, 204, 800, 802, 810, 812, 904, 906)." See, 5/10/2005 Office Action, p. 2. Applicants do not understand the Examiner's request. If the Examiner is requesting a description of each referenced structure (e.g., structure 200) in the context of each of applicants' figures, applicants assert that this is unnecessary, because a reference number appearing in two or more figures is presumed to reference the same structure. Providing a description of the structure in the context of each figure (when the structure is the same) would be duplicative.

The Examiner also objects to the disclosure because the trademark "DuPont" should be capitalized. This change has been made.

All of the above amendments to the specification are believed to be clerical in nature, and none are believed to add new matter.

2. Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objects to FIG. 3 of the drawings because reference number "228" is not referenced in the specification. Rather than correcting the drawings, references to "external walls 224, 226" in paragraph [0019] have been changed to read "external walls 226, 228".

The Examiner objects to FIGS. 5 & 6 of the drawings because reference number "220" does not appear on the right-hand sides of the ground shields 220. However, the shields 220 are continuous over the mounds of dielectric 500/504 and 502/506, as shown in FIG. 5. Although the reference number 220 could be repeated on both sides of each "ground shield 220", applicants do not believe this is necessary.

3. Objections to the Claims

The Examiner objects to claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15 and 18 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as their invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that, "it is unclear which ones of the various recited "dielectrics" is intended by the recitation of "the dielectrics". See, 5/10/2005 Office Action; p. 3.

Although applicants believe it is clear that "the dielectrics" includes all of the previously recited dielectrics, applicants have amended claims 4, 5-7, 9, 10-12, 14-16 and 18 to clarify this fact.

The Examiner objects to claim 8 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as their invention. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that it is unclear as to which dielectric mounds "the first and second dielectrics" pertains. Applicants disagree, but have amended claim 8 to make further clarification.

The Examiner objects to claim 13 because he believes the word "respectively" should follow the word "dielectric" in each of elements e) and f). Applicants have made this change.

All of the above amendments to the claims are believed to be clerical in nature, and none are believed to add new matter.

4. Rejection of Claims 1-3 Under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by either Leeb (U.S. Pat. No. 5,317,292) or Matsubayashi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,426,399; hereinafter "Matsubayashi").

The Examiner asserts that:

... each reference discloses first and second dielectric mounds (1, 5 in Leeb; 10a, 10c in Matsubayashi et al) encapsulating first and second signal conductors (2 in Leeb; 3 in Matsubayashi et al). A third dielectric mound (1, 5 in Fig. 10 of Leeb; 10b in Matsubayashi et al) which encapsulates a signal conductor (3 in Matsubayashi et al; 2 in fig. 10, of Leeb) and which is disposed in a valley adjacent to the first and second dielectric mounds.

5/10/2005 Office Action, p. 4.

Even assuming, *arguendo*, that the Examiner has correctly summarized Leeb's and Matsubayashi's teachings, the Examiner has not indicated where Leeb or Matsubayashi teach "a third dielectric, **filling a valley between the first and second mounds of dielectric**, and encapsulating a third conductor". A third dielectric mound "disposed in a valley adjacent" first and second dielectric mounds is not equivalent to a third dielectric mound "filling a valley between" first and second dielectric mounds. The latter, which is claimed by applicants, provides for a denser array of quasi-coax transmission lines than does Leeb or Matsubayashi. Furthermore, if Leeb and Matsubayashi form all of their dielectric mounds in parallel (which it appears is the case), then it is questionable whether Leeb or Matsubayashi really disclose forming a third dielectric mound in "a valley between" first and second mounds of dielectric, as

such a valley is never really created.

Claims 1-3 are believed to be allowable over the teachings of Leeb and Matsubayashi for at least the above reasons.

5. Rejection of Claims 8, 12, 13 and 17 under 35 USC 102(b)

Claims 8, 12, 13 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Leeb (U.S. Pat. No. 5,317,292).

Applicants assert that claims 8, 12, 13 and 17 are allowable at least for reasons similar to why claim 1 is believed to be allowable. Furthermore, Leeb does not appear to disclose (and the Examiner does not indicate where Leeb discloses) the particular construction methods recited in claims 8 and 13.

Claims 8, 12, 13 and 17 are therefore believed to be allowable for the reasons presented in Section 4 of these Remarks/Arguments, *supra*.

6. Rejection of Claim 5 under 35 USC 103(a)

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Leeb (U.S. Pat. No. 5,317,292) or Matsubayashi et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,426,399; hereinafter "Matsubayashi") in view of Dove et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,457,979; hereinafter "Dove").

Applicants assert that Dove does not teach that which applicants have already argued is missing from both Leeb and Matsubayashi. As a result, applicants believe that claim 5 is allowable at least for the reason that it depends from claim 1, which claim is believed to be allowable over the teachings of Leeb and Matsubayashi for the reasons presented in Section 4 of these Remarks/Arguments, *supra*.

7. Conclusion

In light of the amendments and remarks provided herein, applicants respectfully request the issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
DAHL & OSTERLOTH, L.L.P.

By:



Gregory W. Osterloth
Reg. No. 36,232
Tel: (303) 291-3200